

# **Prepare: Build An Emergency Supplies Kit**

Emergencies can happen at any time, and they often require families to look after their own needs for several days. When an emergency strikes, it's too late to begin to plan how you and your family will cope with it, or to assemble the things you will need to survive. In the event of a major disaster, emergency services may be overwhelmed and will only to able to respond to life-threatening emergencies. If help takes hours, or even days to arrive, would your family be prepared to cope?

Preparing for an emergency before it strikes is your surest path to survival. One key step is to assemble an Emergency Supplies Kit. By gathering emergency supplies in advance, your family will be much more prepared for an evacuation or extended stay at home. If you are unable to assemble the entire kit, start by purchasing food and water first. Then, assemble a first aid kit and medicines the next month. Every month, add an essential item to your emergency supplies kit. And by the end of the year, your kit will be fully stocked and available when you need it. Start building your kit today.

## **Emergency Supplies Kit Checklist**

This is a list of essential items to include in your emergency supplies kit. This kit should have enough supplies to last a minimum of 3 - 7 days for all persons and pets living in your household. Check your kit every six months for expired items and replace as needed.

# Helpful websites - Building a Kit

- Los Angeles County Public Health Department http://www.lapublichealth.org/eprp/media/buildakit.htm
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) http://www.ready.gov/

# **Emergency Supplies Kit:**

#### Water

- Store one gallon of water per person (or pet) per day.
- Water purification tablets

#### Food

Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Select food items that are compact, lightweight, and ready-to-eat.

# **Clothing**

#### First Aid Kit

## Prescription/Non-prescription drugs

#### Tools

Assemble a general tool kit with adjustable wrenches, screwdrivers, pry bar, hammer, and other.

#### **Pet Supplies**

#### **Special Items**

- Infant needs
- Disabled person aids
- Feminine needs

- Eyes glasses & contacts
- Cash (small denominations)
- Portable radio w/ batteries

#### Important family documents

Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container

- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- Passports, social security cards, immunizations records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)